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Counsel for Defendants
UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
and OTTOMOTTO LLC

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

WAYMO LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,
OTTOMOTTO LLC; OTTO TRUCKING LLC,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:17-cv-00939-WHA

**DEFENDANTS UBER
TECHNOLOGIES INC.'S AND
OTTOMOTTO LLC'S NOTICE OF
JOINDER IN OPPOSITION TO
PLAINTIFF WAYMO LLC'S
MOTION FOR SANCTIONS**

Judge: Hon. William H. Alsup
Trial Date: October 10, 2017

1 TO THE COURT, ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

2 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc. and Ottomotto
3 LLC (together, “Uber”) hereby join and adopt co-Defendant Otto Trucking, LLC’s (“Otto
4 Trucking”) Opposition to Waymo’s Motion for Sanctions (Dkt. 1910). In support Uber states as
5 follows:

6 1. Uber joins and adopts, as if set out verbatim herein, the arguments, authorities,
7 conditions, and prayers of Otto Trucking set forth in Docket 1956 and supporting materials
8 therein, because Waymo seeks sanctions against all defendants and Otto Trucking’s opposition is
9 applicable to Uber.

10 2. Uber joins and adopts Otto Trucking’s opposition to best serve the interest of
11 justice and avoid unnecessary or duplicative effort, time, or expense to the Court and the parties
12 involved.

13 3. Uber makes the following additional argument in opposition to Waymo’s motion
14 for sanctions:

15 **WAYMO’S MOTION FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST UBER IS FRIVOLOUS**

16 Waymo’s motion as to Uber is based on the assertion that Uber’s conduct was “knowing
17 and intentional” and “repeated.” (Mot. at 1, 4). That assertion is baseless and the motion should
18 be denied.

19 As the Court recognized in *Lofton v. Verizon Wireless (VAW), LLC*, the bad-faith
20 requirement for imposing sanctions under the Court’s inherent powers “sets a high threshold,
21 which may be met by willful misconduct, or recklessness that is coupled with an improper
22 purpose.” 308 F.R.D. 276, 285 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (quotation marks and citations omitted); *see*
23 *also id.* (holding the Court’s inherent powers “must be exercised with restraint and discretion”)
24 (quotation marks omitted). Waymo does not even try to meet its “burden to demonstrate that
25 [Uber] acted with the requisite bad faith or improper purpose.” *Id.* Instead, it just lumps the
26 defendants together and mentions Uber only once in a footnote buried on page six of its motion.
27 (Mot. at 6 n.3). Waymo submits no evidence whatsoever that Uber acted in bad faith or with an
28 improper purpose.

Waymo also fails to show how any sanctions could possibly be authorized against Uber under Rule 37. Waymo acknowledges that only one of the ten docket entries that publicly disclosed the domain name of Waymo's SVN repository was filed by Uber. (Mot. 6 at n.3). Waymo omits from its motion, however, that the sole supposedly offending docket entry from Uber—Dkt. 1546-2—was an exhibit that had been filed previously. (Declaration of Martha Goodman ISO Opposition (“Goodman Decl.”) ¶ 2). While Uber could have cited to the prior docket entry for that document, it re-filed the document as an exhibit to a motion *in limine* for the Court's and the parties' convenience. (*Id.* ¶ 3). Waymo makes no attempt to explain how Uber's filing of a previously-filed exhibit violated the Protective Order or the Court's sealing order. It cannot.

Further, Waymo fails to inform the Court that Uber contacted the ECF Help Desk and locked Dkt. 1546-2 the same day Waymo identified it and asked that it be corrected. (*Id.* ¶ 4). Even if the Court finds that the SVN domain name should have been sealed, Uber's mere re-filing of another filing and its immediate compliance with Waymo's request cannot support sanctioning Uber.

The reason for Waymo's desire to shoehorn Uber into its sanctions motion against Otto Trucking is abundantly plain when considering the relief Waymo seeks: an order “precluding Defendants from arguing that Waymo does not adequately protect its SVN server.” (Mot. at 1). Without meeting and conferring, Waymo manufactured a dispute with Uber around a single filing of an already publicly-filed exhibit because Waymo recognizes that it faces an uphill battle at trial to prove that it takes reasonable efforts to protect the secrecy of the “low-value” files on SVN server. Waymo's attempt to use this motion as a vehicle to obtain partial summary judgment on an element of its misappropriation claim is improper. Accordingly, Waymo's motion should be denied.

**WAYMO'S MOTION AS TO UBER SHOULD BE DENIED FOR FAILURE TO MEET
AND CONFER**

Waymo's motion for sanctions against Uber is also improper because Waymo did not meet and confer with Uber; it only conferred with Otto Trucking. The motion should be denied on

1 this basis alone.

2 “Counsel are required to meet and confer, or attempt to meet and confer, in good faith
3 prior to filing a discovery motion.” *Use Techno Corp. v. Kenko USA, Inc.*, No. C-06-02754 EDL,
4 2007 WL 3045996, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 18, 2007) (citing Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 37(2)(B); Civil L.R.
5 37-1(a)); *see also* Civil Standing Order for Magistrate Judge Corley (“Upon referral from a
6 District Judge or upon the development of an impasse with respect to discovery in a pending case
7 assigned to Judge Corley, the parties must first meet and confer.”). This standard requires “direct
8 dialogue and discussion” between counsel for the parties. Civil L.R. 1-5(n). This meet-and-confer
9 rule preserves the resources of all parties involved since “[t]he court does not have enough time
10 or resources to oversee all discovery, and . . . to promote the goal of addressing only very
11 specific disagreements (rather than becoming an overseer of all discovery), the Court requires that
12 the parties meet and confer to try to resolve their disagreements before seeking Court
13 intervention.” *Haddix v. Burris*, No. C-12-1674 EMC (PR), 2014 WL 6983287, at *1 (N.D. Cal.
14 Dec. 9, 2014). The meet and confer process is “of even greater importance” when a party is
15 seeking “discovery sanctions for failure to comply with Court orders,” as Waymo does here.
16 *Satchell v. FedEx Exp.*, No. C03-2659 SI, 2006 WL 3507914, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 5, 2006). For
17 these reasons, courts in this District routinely deny motions for failing to meet and confer. *See*
18 *e.g. Haddix*, 2014 WL 6983287, at *2 (“The motion to compel will be denied because plaintiff
19 failed to engage in a good faith effort to meet and confer to resolve the discovery dispute.”); *Las*
20 *Virgenes Mun. Water Dist.-Triunfo Sanitation Dist. v. McCarthy*, No. C 14-1392 SBA, 2014 WL
21 5297806, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 15, 2014) (“As a threshold matter, Plaintiff concedes that it did
22 not meet and confer prior to the filing of the instant motion. On that basis alone, the Court finds
23 that Plaintiff’s motion is subject to denial.”); *J & J Sports Prods., Inc. v. Jernegan*, No. C 11-
24 02095, 2013 WL 450382, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 5, 2013) (“Defendants argue . . . that Plaintiff’s
25 motion should be denied for failing to meet and confer prior to the filing of the motion. The Court
26 agrees.”); *Use Techno Corp. v. Kenko USA, Inc.*, No. C-06-02754 EDL, 2007 WL 3045996, at *1
27 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 18, 2007) (“This Order denies Defendants’ motion based on counsel’s failure to
28 meet and confer.”).

1 In this case, Waymo did not meet and confer with *Uber* before filing this motion, and the
 2 motion as to Uber should be denied outright. The first time the parties held a meet and confer
 3 with the Special Master concerning the purported confidentiality of the domain name of Waymo's
 4 SVN server was on Friday September 29. (Declaration of Kaitlyn Murphy ISO Opposition
 5 ("Murphy Decl.") ¶ 2). While counsel for Uber attended the meet and confer to discuss other
 6 issues on the agenda, Waymo never claimed that Uber had done anything improper with respect
 7 to the SVN domain name, and Uber's counsel did not participate in the discussion between
 8 Waymo, Otto Trucking, and the Special Master about the issue or the briefing schedule for
 9 Waymo's motion. (*Id.*). Waymo did not inform Uber that it would move for sanctions *against*
 10 *Uber* or identify the grounds on which such relief would be sought, let alone meet and confer
 11 with Uber prior to filing its motion; Uber learned about it for the first time when Waymo's
 12 motion was filed on Sunday night at 11:51 p.m. The parties met and conferred the next day, on
 13 October 2, about Waymo's improvident filing as it pertained to Uber, and the Special Master said
 14 he also left the September 29 meet and confer with the understanding that the dispute over the
 15 confidentiality of the SVN's domain name was between Waymo and Otto Trucking only. (*Id.* ¶¶
 16 3-4). The Special Master granted Uber leave to file a brief and instructed Waymo to re-notice its
 17 motion and inform the Court that there had been uncertainty about whether Waymo also sought
 18 sanctions against Uber and to inform the court that the deadline to file oppositions was now 3:00
 19 p.m. on October 4, 2017. (*Id.*, ¶ 4). Waymo's amended notice stated only: "Following a meet and
 20 confer with Special Master Cooper, Waymo is filing an Amended Notice to clarify that all
 21 Defendants will file their opposition by 3:00 p.m. on October 4, 2017." (Dkt. 1932 at 1).

22 Waymo's counsel stated during the October 2 conference with the Special Master that
 23 Waymo satisfied its meet-and-confer obligation because Uber's counsel was on the September 29
 24 call to discuss other issues when Waymo's counsel discussed the SVN issue with Otto Trucking's
 25 counsel and the Special Master. Putting aside whether that post-hoc justification is credible,
 26 Waymo's September 29 discussion with Otto Trucking and the Special Master without addressing
 27 Uber or its counsel once cannot be considered "direct dialogue," Civil L.R. 1-5(n), or be seen to
 28 have occurred in good faith since even the Special Master was not able to detect Waymo's

1 supposed intention to also have met and conferred with Uber. Accordingly, Waymo's motion
2 should be denied.

3 WHEREFORE, Uber hereby joins and adopts Otto Trucking's opposition to Waymo's
4 motion.

5
6 Dated: October 4, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

7 SUSMAN GODFREY LLP
8 MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
9 BOIES SCHILLER FLEXNER LLP

10 By: /s/ Karen L. Dunn
Karen L. Dunn

11 *Counsel for Defendants*
12 UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC. AND
13 OTTOMOTTO LLC
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